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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0313

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Christopher D. ENDARA et al. )  
 )  
Application No.: 10/731,153 ) Group Art Unit: 3731  
 )  
Filed: December 10, 2003 ) Examiner: TRUONG, Kevin Thao  
 )  
For: CLEVIS ASSEMBLIES FOR )  
MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND ) Confirmation No. 4806  
METHODS OF MANUFACTURE )  
OF SAME )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO/SB/08.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached. Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Regarding the non-English language documents DE 100 51 652 A1 and DE 100 56 946 A1, Applicants submit herewith a PCT International Search Report and Written Opinion from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application setting forth the relevance of those documents.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

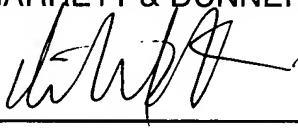
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

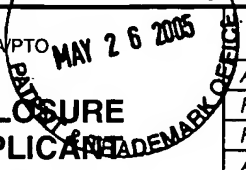
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 26, 2005

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael W. Kim  
Reg. No. 51,880



IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/731,153
Filing Date	December 10, 2003
First Named Inventor	Christopher D. ENDARA et al.
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	Truong, Kevin Thao
Attorney Docket Number	06530.0313

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-5,716,374	02-10-1998	Francese et al.	
		US-2002/0013595 A1	01-31-2002	Yamamoto	
		US-5,722,421	03-03-1998	Francese et al.	
		US-6,206,903 B1	03-27-2001	Ramans	

**Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		DE 100 56 946 A1	11-17-2000	Ouchi et al.		No
		DE 100 51 652 A1	10-18-2000	Ouchi et al.		No

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		PCT International Search Report and Written Opinion in PCT/US2004/038237, dated April 22, 2005.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.